



# *Iowa Outdoors*

Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
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**Sept. 12, 2006**

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## **BROKEN PUMP SINKS DUCK BOATS FOR OPENER**

RIVERTON, Iowa – The pump used to move water from the Nishnabotna River into the Riverton Area for waterfowl season is under repair. The pump in question, re-built last June, failed after only two hours of operation.

What this means to waterfowl hunters is the Riverton Area will have some water for the opening of first duck season on Sept. 23, but no boat access. Hunters wanting to use a boat for opening weekend, better plan to go somewhere else.

“We should have the pump operating again soon, but even so, we cannot make up for lost time,” said Carl Priebe, area wildlife biologist for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. “With the lack of water, we wanted to alert waterfowl hunters so that a guy from, say, Des Moines, doesn’t drive down here at 2 a.m. only to find out he can’t get his boat out. He wouldn’t be happy at all.”

The Riverton area attracts waterfowl hunters from Des Moines, Council Bluffs/Omaha and as far away as Cedar Rapids and Waterloo. Hunters familiar with the Riverton Area should note that the walk in area on the west side will not have any water and the new area south of town will be about two-thirds filled with water, accessible with a boat, and one-third dry.

“We anticipate everything will be near normal when we get to the second season,” Priebe said. A recorded message with updated water conditions will be available all fall at 712-387-2032.

**For more information, contact Priebe at 712-374-3133.**

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## **PELICANS AND SHOREBIRDS ARE COMING**

By Joe Wilkinson

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Whether they are in a feeding line, with hundreds circling a shallow bay...wheeling overhead in a long 'V' or just loafing and preening in flocks that number in the hundreds, the pelicans which have taken up residence on Iowa reservoirs and other shallows are worth the trip to see.

Pelicans? Sure enough. As instincts...as well as weather and food supplies...tell them to pack it in, they leave their nesting range and are now crowding into Iowa. "It is a surprise to most people because they associate pelicans with the ocean coasts. Those are *brown* pelicans," explains Doug Harr, wildlife diversity coordinator with the Department of Natural Resources. "We see white pelicans, which generally nest in the Dakotas, western Minnesota and into Canada. We have major concentrations in Iowa now, as they move along on their fall migration."

Those pelicans aren't alone in the early push south. I've seen more snowy egrets dotting the shoreline of Coralville Reservoir; up to a dozen or more perched in the snags of a dead tree. On Saylorville Reservoir, the best spot to view pelicans is around the Jester Park boat ramp. Various shorebirds; sandpipers, yellow legs, peeps, avocets and others have been here since late August, picking invertebrates out of the mud flats or shallows. How long they stay will depend on the weather. Should we hit a dry spell, their meals will begin disappearing and soon, so will they.

But it's the pelicans that draw the crowds; at viewing spots along the reservoirs, or just in the yard or along the road to watch a couple hundred winging by in search of the next feeding spot. With nine-foot wingspans, a propensity to travel in huge flocks...and that big orange 'bucket' beneath their bills, it is easy for pelicans to steal the show.

And that show is never flashier, than when a few hundred team up to 'herd' fish. The first time you witness it, you wonder what all the commotion is. Then you realize these combined flocks are working together as they beat the water and tighten their semicircle, as they move, in concert, toward shore. "They are communal feeders. They tend to feed in big lines; driving the fish ahead of them into the shallows," details Harr. "Then they just scoop them up by the bill full. It's a really unique way of feeding." With plentiful gizzard shad populations in Iowa's reservoirs, they are a natural stop on the trip south.

And if it seems like pelicans are relative newcomers, you're mostly right. A few birds spend the nesting season in Iowa. For the most part, they are immatures; not ready to head to the large lakes in the Prairie Pothole region and stake out territories. Pelicans, though, are also mounting a comeback, much like bald eagles and peregrine falcons. They too, were victims of the DDT era in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

The pesticide, now banned in the U.S., found its way into fish and other species upon which the higher predators fed. The toxic chemical built up in the birds, which then had devastating reproduction problems. Their numbers were decimated. Now, with more pelicans surviving to tackle the spring and fall migrations, they are utilizing Iowa's four federal flood control reservoirs; Red Rock, Coralville, Saylorville and Rathbun; water bodies that weren't there a half century ago.

It's not uncommon to see a few hundred, or even a couple thousand, spread out over a two mile stretch above the Highway 965 bridge on the Hawkeye Wildlife Area in Johnson County. Near Solon, Hoosier Bay attracts hundreds of pelicans a couple times during the week, depending on wind direction and availability of shad in the muddy flats beneath. With any luck, you can get a little closer and really pick out the details as they skim the lake surface. I had dozens flying within 25-100 yards late Sunday afternoon.

The great thing about pelicans, though, is that they command their own show time; whether it is 40 or 50 banking lazily overhead, or a thousand of them loafing on the water in spotting scope range.

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## **YOUTH DEER HUNTING SEASON BEGINS SATURDAY**

DES MOINES - Nearly 4,000 Iowa teens will participate in the statewide, youth deer season beginning Saturday and running through Oct. 1. The special season was created to allow adults to teach deer hunting to Iowa resident youths, without the pressure to succeed often found during the regular deer season.

The youth deer season is open to any resident Iowan, who is less than 16 years of age when they obtain the deer license. This is the first year where the minimum age and the hunter education requirements have been removed. The youth must hunt under the direct supervision of an adult mentor who has a valid hunting license and has paid the habitat fee, if normally required to hunt. Only one youth hunter may accompany each adult. The adult mentor may not carry a firearm.

Youth hunters may hunt with a bow, shotgun or muzzleloader during the youth season. Youth season licenses are valid statewide for taking one deer of either sex. The youth hunter and mentor must comply with the blaze orange requirements. Youth hunters may also obtain deer licenses for other season like any other hunter.

Last year, nearly 50 percent of the youth hunters successfully harvested a deer.

Iowa's special disabled hunter deer season also begins Saturday and runs through Oct. 1. There is certain criteria that must be met and a special application filled out and submitted to the DNR in order to participate in the disabled deer season.

In 2005, 75 hunters participated during the two week disabled hunter season.

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## **NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION TO MEET SEPT. 14 NEAR PISGAH**

DES MOINES - The Natural Resource Commission (NRC) of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will meet at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 14, at the Loess Hills State Forest Visitor's Center, near Pisgah. The meeting is open to the public.

Members of the NRC will meet at 12 p.m., Sept. 13, at Kari's Diner, in Mondamin, then leave at 12:45 p.m. for a tour of the area.

Members of the NRC are Joan Schneider, Randy Duncan, Carol Kramer, Richard Francisco, Janice Marcantonio, Lennis Moore and Liz Garst. The DNR Director is Jeffrey Vonk.

The following is the agenda for the September meeting.

- Approve Agenda
- Approve Minutes of August 10 Meeting
- Director's Remarks
- Construction Projects
  - Big Creek State Park, Polk County – Wastewater Facilities Improvement
  - Big Wall Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Wright County – Outlet Control Structure
  - New Albin WMA, Allamakee County – Roadway Resurfacing
  - Colo Bogs WMA, Story County – Wetlands Reconstruction
  - Lake Cornelia WMA, Wright County – HMA Paving
- Land Acquisition
  - Union Hills WMAs, Cerro Gordo County – Monson
  - Trout Run Creek, Winneshiek County – Cramer, Amdt, Priest
  - Lake of Three Fires, Taylor County – Alvarez
  - Viking Lake State Park, Montgomery County – Paul, Izaak Walton League, Marshall

- Big Wall Lake, Wright County – James A. Cramer Trust
- Big Wall Lake, Wright County – Kell-Agra Partnership
- Farm Management Contracts
  - Northwest Wildlife District
  - Yellow River Forest, Volga River and Pleasant Creek WMA, Backbone and Palisades-Kepler State Parks
  - Stephens State Forest
- Budget Request for FY 2008
- Conservation and Recreation Donations
- Cooperative Agreement – IDNR and The Nature Conservancy
- Agreement with Iowa State University – Lake Restoration Diagnostic and Feasibility Studies
- Forest Legacy Conservation Easement – Spaete
- WaShawtee Designation
- WaShawtee Special Hunts
- Dock Rules
- Honey Creek Resort State Park Local Contributions 28E Agreement.
- General Discussion
- Items for Next Meeting, Oct. 12, E. B. Lyons Nature Center, Dubuque

**For more information, contact Karyn Stone at 515-281-8650.**

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## ***IOWA FISHING REPORT***

**For the week of September 12, 2006**

**[www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com)**

For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

### **Southwest**

**Don Williams** (Boone): Bluegill fishing has been fair using night crawlers in shallow water. Crappie fishing is fair with jigs and minnows. Channel catfish fishing is good using night crawlers or chicken liver.

**Hickory Grove** (Story): Bluegill fishing has been good with worms. Channel catfish fishing is good using night crawlers and other traditional baits.

**Big Creek** (Polk): Bluegill fishing has been fair using jigs or worms/hooks, off shore in deeper water. Channel catfish fishing has been good. Anglers reported catching some nicer crappie with jigs in 30 feet water.

**Easter Lake** (Polk): Bluegill fishing is fair using night crawlers and bobbers. Channel catfish fishing has been good at night with night crawlers, chicken livers and

chubs. Largemouth bass fishing has been slow to fair, although most fish are below the legal size.

**Saylorville Lake** (Polk): White bass/wiper fishing has been good to excellent with jigs and spinners. Catfish fishing has been good using a variety of baits.

**Below Saylorville Dam** (Polk): White bass/wiper fishing has been fair using jigs and/or minnows. Channel catfish fishing has been good with some good-sized fish caught.

**Rock Creek** (Jasper): Crappies are fair to good on jigs and minnows in deeper water. Channel catfish fishing is fair with chicken liver. Bluegill fishing is slow to fair, with some very nice fish reported.

**Red Rock** (Marion): White bass fishing has been fair, with the best fishing in the marina and Whitebreast areas. Channel catfish fishing has been fair using cut baits and liver.

**Below Lake Red Rock** (Marion): White bass fishing has been fair with jigs in the tailwater area. Channel catfish fishing has been fair using cut baits and liver.

**Roberts Creek** (Marion): Crappie fishing has been slow using jigs and minnows in deeper water. Channel catfish fishing has been good to excellent using a variety of baits.

**Lake Ahquabi** (Warren): Bluegill fishing has been fair using worms and night crawlers. Channel catfish fishing has been good to excellent with night crawlers and other baits. Anglers also report catching some largemouth bass and crappie with jigs.

**Hooper Lake** (Warren): Bluegill fishing has been fair to good with worms. Channel catfish fishing has been good with night crawlers and chicken liver.

**Contact: Dick McWilliams (515) 432-2823, Ext.108, for information on the above area lakes. For more information on general fishing in southwest Iowa, call the SW Regional Office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.**

**Icaria** (Adams): Channel catfish and bullheads are biting on night crawlers and liver off jetties and in bays.

**Binder** (Adams): Channel catfish are biting on night crawlers and liver. Largemouth bass up to 16 inches are being caught on spinner baits and shallow crankbaits.

**Green Valley** (Union): Channel catfish are biting on night crawlers, liver and prepared bait. Bluegill can be caught from the flooded cedar trees on crawlers. Crappies are being caught in 10 to 12 feet of water and in brush piles on minnows.

**Three Mile** (Union): Channel catfish fishing is fair using night crawlers or liver. The largemouth bass fishing is good around the woody cover in 8 to 10 feet of water. The crappies are suspended in about 10 feet over the brush piles. Bluegills are being caught in the coves and around timber on night crawlers and wax worms.

**Lake of Three Fires** (Taylor): Some largemouth bass can be caught from the flooded trees on spinners. Some nice bluegills are biting on crawlers around the flooded trees. Channel catfish up to 3 pounds can be caught near shore in the mornings and evenings on liver or small bluegill sides.

**West Osceola** (Clarke): Fishing is good for medium sized largemouth bass around the flooded trees. Fishing for the other species has been fair but recent rains have filled the lake to within 1 foot of full.

**Grade** (Clarke): The small and medium-sized largemouth bass are easily caught from the weed edges.

**Wilson** (Taylor): Fishing for largemouth bass is good using spinners in 3 to 6 feet of water.

**Windmill** (Taylor): Largemouth bass can be caught from shore in 4 feet of water.

**Walnut Creek Marsh** (Ringgold): Bluegill and crappie can be caught from the weed edges and lotus beds.

**Contact: Gary Sobotka (641) 464-3108 for information on the above area lakes. For more information on general fishing in southwest Iowa, call the SW Regional Office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.**

**Orient** (Adair): Fishing is good for 2 to 3-pound channel catfish using night crawlers, liver and prepared baits in the evenings. Bluegills are fair using night crawlers with bobber and small jigs.

**Greenfield** (Adair): Bluegills are fair using jigs tipped with night crawlers fishing structure and drift fishing. Fish in the 7 to 8-inch range are common. Channel catfish are good using liver and prepared bait.

**Nodaway** (Adair): Channel catfish are good on liver and prepared baits in shallow areas. A few bluegills are being caught using night crawlers and a bobber.

**Meadow** (Adair): Bluegills are fair using night crawlers on sunken trees and along dam. Crappies are slow around sunken trees using minnows. Channel catfish is good using prepared baits around structure.

**Morman Trail** (Adair): Fishing is fair for bluegills on rocked shoreline along south side of lake. Channel catfish fishing is good using liver and prepared baits.

**Littlefield** (Audubon): Anglers are catching a few bluegills by drifting night crawlers, but overall fishing is slow. Crappie fishing is slow drifting minnows. A few channel catfish are being caught using liver or cut bait.

**Anita** (Cass): The lake is still 5 feet low and has limited shoreline access. The south boat ramp can be used with a small (14 foot) boat. The lake contains a good fish population and fishing should be good. Fishing for 12 to 15-inch largemouth bass has been good.

**Manawa** (Pottawattamie): Fishing for wipers has picked up. Wipers are being caught on twister tails and shad colored crankbaits along east shoreline and around swimming beach. Walleyes are fair trolling crankbaits along west shore. Channel catfish is good using stink bait by the beach and west shoreline.

**DeSoto Bend** (Harrison): Crappie fishing is slow using jigs and minnows around deep structure. Channel catfish is fair in shallow areas using night crawlers or blood bait. Carp are being caught mostly on dough balls.

**Prairie Rose** (Shelby): Crappies are fair drift fishing jigs tipped with a minnow. Channel catfish fishing is fair on liver and prepared baits along rocky shorelines. Bluegills have slowed, but a few are being caught drifting jigs tipped with night crawlers.

**Willow** (Harrison): Fishing for channel catfish is fair using liver in west arm of lake.

**Farm Ponds:** Fishing is good for bluegills using jigs tipped with night crawlers. Largemouth bass fishing is also good. Channel catfishing is also fair using night crawlers in the evenings.

**Contact: Chris Larson (712) 769-2587 for information on the above area lakes. For more information on general fishing in southwest Iowa, call the SW Regional Office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.**

### **Southeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19:** The water temperature at Lock and Dam 16 (Muscatine) is 72 degrees and the river pool stage for Pool 16 is 10.98 feet. Water levels are expected to rise slightly and then stabilize over the next several days.

Water temperature is dropping and fishing has improved on **Pools 16 to 19** of the Mississippi River. Walleye and sauger fishing has been fair off the wing dams. On **Pool 16** try near the Riverfront area at Davenport, on the wing dams around Credit Island and the mouth of the Rock River. Try fishing walleye and sauger with jigs tipped with night crawlers, leeches or minnows, or trolling crankbaits. Anglers are reporting catching a few flathead catfish and some larger channel catfish on green sunfish, larger chubs and minnows. Channel catfishing has been fair on **Pools 16 to 19** and Lake Odessa (**Pools 17 to 18**) on night crawlers, minnows, and other various baits. Crappie and bluegill fishing has been fair on the wing dams and backwaters on jigs and live bait rigs.

**Lake Odessa** (Louisa): Bluegill fishing is starting to pick up after the long hot summer as the fish respond to the falling water temperature and start to fatten up for the fall. Water levels remain at the summer level so keep that in mind when boating.

**Lake Darling** (Washington): Bluegills are still in 10 to 12 feet of water and are biting. Crappies are also out deep.

**Lake Geode** (Henry): Bluegills and redears are moving back and forth from deep to shallow water. Fish along the edges of the weed beds in 6 to 8 feet of water.

**Lake Belva Deer** (Keokuk): Bluegill fishing is good. Look for bluegills in the 10 to 12 feet of water. Catfishing is also very good right now especially around the fish cleaning stations where all those bluegills are being cleaned.

**Lake Sugema** (Van Buren): Crappies and bluegills have been hitting on small jigs tipped with a minnow or a chunk of wax worm. Largemouth bass continue to hit on a variety of artificial presentations. Channel catfish have been biting on night crawlers.

**Lake Wapello** (Davis): Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial presentations. Top-water lures have been productive during the evening hours. Rubber worms fished around the structures have also been productive. Channel catfish have been biting on stink bait.

**Lake Miami** (Monroe): Largemouth bass have been hitting on artificial presentations fished around the standing timber and other areas with structure. Crappies have been biting on minnows being trolled or drifted through deeper parts of the lake.

**Lake Rathbun** (Appanoose): White bass have been hitting on white twister tails and on silver or chrome colored crankbaits. Crappies have been biting on minnows fished around underwater structure in 15 to 20 feet of water. Channel catfish have been biting on liver and night crawlers.

**Pleasant Creek** (Linn): Some channel catfish are being caught on chicken liver and shad guts.

**Lake Macbride** (Johnson): Some largemouth bass are being caught on a more regular basis now as the fish are beginning to move shallow. Bluegills are also plentiful and are biting on worms around rocks, wood or docks.



**Diamond Lake** (Poweshiek): Channel catfishing is somewhat productive on stink bait. Boaters have been picking up good numbers of crappies by drifting the main lake and a few around the brush. Some bluegills are also being picked up in deeper water on small worms.

**Kent Park** (Johnson): Channel catfish are still being taken on stink bait and night crawlers. Bluegills are being caught on small worms.

**Iowa River** (Louisa): Catfishing has been fair to good using a variety of baits. With the heavy rains in the northern part of the state look for rising waters levels.

**For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.**

### **Northeast**

**Mississippi River Pools 9 to 15:** Water levels have risen with a peak expected on Wednesday in Bellevue. Water temperatures have dropped to 77 degrees and clarity is good. With the rise in water levels and the lowering of the temperature in the main channel, fishing will pick up. River stage on Monday morning was 5 feet at Bellevue.

Walleye fishing is fair to good in **Pools 9 to 15**. Walleyes are starting to move back into the wing dam and tailwater areas. Look for walleye fishing to improve as water temperature cools this fall.

White bass fishing continues to be good during the early morning and late even hours in the upper areas of **Pools 9 to 15**. Watch for schools of white bass feeding on minnows near wing dams. If you see areas where minnows or shad are continuously being chased, try to maintain some distance away from the melee to avoid spooking the white bass. Any lure that has some flash, such as a white or silver spoon or spinner bait, will work. Make long casts into the areas where the minnows have been breaking the water.

Freshwater drum (sheephead) fishing is good in **Pools 9 to 15**. These fish are being caught in areas with good current, such as the tailwaters and wing dams. Drum are biting on night crawlers fished on the bottom. If you plan to clean drum, store the freshly caught fish on ice until you fillet them. This will keep the meat firm. In addition, cut out the red meat from the rest of the fillet. If you take these two simple steps, drum are excellent to eat.

Largemouth bass fishing has been fair to good in **Pools 9 to 15** using a variety of baits and lures including shad and crawfish imitating crankbaits, spinner baits and soft plastics. Focus on areas with structure and some current—look for areas with rock riprap or woody structure or fish the wing dams. You might also try using weedless lures where there is a lot of vegetation.

Smallmouth bass are being caught in **Pools 9 to 15**. For some exciting smallmouth bass action, try using top-water baits on wing dams in the evening—shortly before dark. Smallmouth are found in swift current areas with rock. These areas are generally associated with main channel habitats including bank stabilization rock, day markers or wing dams.

Fishing has been good to excellent for channel catfish on stink baits, cut baits and night crawlers fished in the deep holes off the tips of the wing dams in **Pools 9 to 15**. Channel catfish are also biting well in the tailwaters of **Lock and Dam 12** drifting worms or cut bait on the bottom with three-way rigs.

**Cedar River** (Black Hawk): Channel catfish are hitting cut baits and stink baits fished in the riffle areas below the dams. Walleye fishing is fair on jigs tipped with night crawlers or leeches fished close to the bottom below the dams.

**Cedar River** (Mitchell and Floyd): Walleye and smallmouth bass fishing is fair on night crawlers or crankbaits fished in deeper pools and near log jams during the day. In the morning or evening hours, try fishing along rocky structure and below the riffles.

**Maquoketa River** (Delaware): Smallmouth bass fishing is good in the catch-and-release area using minnows or a variety of artificial lures.

**Turkey River** (Fayette and Clayton): Smallmouth bass and walleye fishing is good using night crawlers or a jig fished in the deeper pools. Trout fishing is excellent near the in-stream boulders by the Big Spring Rearing Station. Fishing is excellent for channel catfish on night crawlers and grubs.

**Upper Iowa River** (Howard and Winneshiek): Water conditions were turbid from last week's rain, but fishing should pick up later in the week.

**Wapsipinicon River** (Buchanan): Channel catfish are hitting cut baits. Anglers are also picking up a few smallmouth bass on crankbaits.

**Backbone Lake** (Delaware): Largemouth bass fishing is good on plastic worms fished in the early morning and late evening hours. Many nice-sized fish are being caught.

**Big Woods, George Wyth and South Prairie Lakes** (Black Hawk): Largemouth bass fishing is fair on surface baits and spinners.

**Lake Hendricks** (Howard): Fishing has slowed with the warmer water temperatures. Channel catfish are biting on chicken liver fished during the evening hours.

**Lake Meyer** (Winneshiek): Largemouth bass fishing is good on dark-colored crankbaits fished in the early morning or evening hours. Bluegills are biting worms fished next to structure.

**Volga Lake** (Fayette): Largemouth bass fishing is good using worms or plastic baits. Bluegill fishing is fair to good using worms fished off the face of the dam. Channel catfish are hitting night crawlers.

**Trout** fishing excellent and stream conditions are good to excellent. September is the last month for announced stream stockings. Stocking information for specific streams can be found on the web by going through the DNR web site at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com) or directly to <http://www.iowadnr.com/fish/news/stockrep/groupstock.pdf>. Anglers may also call the recorded trout stocking information hotline at 563-927-5736.

**For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.**

## **Northwest**

**Spirit Lake** (Dickinson): Walleye fishing is fair trolling crankbaits in 18-22 feet of water. Anglers are also picking up a few walleyes and perch on night crawlers. A few walleyes and northern pike have been caught on the North Grade throwing jigs. The water temperature is starting to decline – look for walleyes to start moving shallow in the next week or two. A few largemouth bass are being caught around Hales Slough using soft plastics pitched into the bulrushes.

**West Okoboji Lake** (Dickinson): Walleye fishing is fair along weed lines in 20 feet of water, drifting or trolling with night crawlers or suspending crankbaits have been picking up fish. Fishing for bluegills and yellow perch is fair in Emerson and the north end. Using wax worms on small jigs or a garden worm have produced.

**Silver Lake** (Dickinson): White bass fishing is good while trolling crankbaits. A few walleyes are being caught.

**Silver Lake** (Palo Alto): Bullhead fishing is good. Look for crappie and perch fishing to pick up soon.

**Little Sioux River** (Clay): Anglers are catching catfish and a few walleyes. Try drifting night crawlers into deeper holes.

**Big Sioux River** (Lyon): Anglers are catching a few walleye and northern pike below the Klondike dam.

**Lake Pahoja** (Lyon): Anglers are catching small crappies.

Brushy Creek (Webster): Fishing remains slow. Hopefully the recent rain will move the fish in to shallow water. A few nice bluegills have been caught in 15 to 20 feet deep. Bass remain deep.

**Black Hawk Lake** (Sac): Channel catfish are fair to good on a variety of baits.

**Yellow Smoke Lake** (Crawford): Fishing is good for bluegills up to 8 inches on small jigs tipped with night crawler or wax worms.

**Storm Lake** (Buena Vista): Channel catfish fishing is good on cut chubs, night crawlers and shad.

**North Twin Lake** (Calhoun): On sunny days, bluegills and yellow bass are congregated around the dock areas. Use a small tube or hair jig tipped with wax worms or cut bait.

**Clear Lake** (Cerro Gordo): Walleye fishing continues to be fair. Fish are being caught trolling crankbaits and using live bait. Anglers are catching fish in both shallow water and on the deeper flats. Remember Clear Lake has a 14-inch minimum length limit. Fishing for yellow bass has been good. The deeper water north of the island, the artificial weed beds and the deeper rock reefs are producing the best. Yellow bass are being caught anchored and vertical jigging with minnows and night crawlers.

**Beeds Lake** (Franklin): Crappies are being caught trolling or drifting small jigs.

**Lake Cornelia** (Wright): Channel catfish are good using chicken liver and night crawlers. Fish the catfish in the evenings on the north shoreline for the best action. Bullheads are hitting on night crawlers fished on the bottom. Walleye are being caught trolling crankbaits.

**For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.**

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